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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2813

PATENT
(5298-04100/PM00012)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#8/C (NOT E)
FJONES
1-24-03

In re Application of:
Qiao et al.

Serial No. 09/661,666

Filed: September 14, 2000

For: METHOD OF FORMING SELF ALIGNED CONTACTS

§ Group Art Unit: 2813
§ Examiner: Pham, T.
§ Atty. Dkt. No. 5298-04100

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: **Box AF**, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below:

January 14, 2003
Date

Kevin L. Daffer

2/20/03
Mollie

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116

RECEIVED
JAN 23 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Box: AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir/Madam:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 19, 2002 to further highlight reasons why the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant submits the present paper in compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R § 1.116.

Please amend the case as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 19 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter recited therein. Please replace claims 17 and 21 with the amended claims below. A "marked-up" version of each amendment is included in **Attachment A**.